

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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RESEARCH FUNDS amounting to \$30,000 were granted this month to the Oakland Center for Treatment and Education on Alcoholism. The center is an outpatient alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation facility operated by the Department's Division of Alcoholic Rehabilitation.

Dr. Joel Fort, Director of the center, said the grant funds from the National Institute of Mental Health will be used to carry out a year's study of personality changes believed to occur in patients during psychotherapy. Dr. A. R. Nurse, clinical psychologist, will direct the study.

A month ago an Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center was opened in the Long Beach City Health Department, climaxing several years of effort by local officials and citizens concerned about the prevalence of alcoholism in their city.

Dr. I. D. Litwack, city health officer, is supervisor of the center, assisted by Mr. Harry Ladas, program director. Dr. Litwack said the new clinic will cooperate with other community groups, including the Long Beach Council on Alcoholism and the Long Beach Memorial Hospital, which maintains a telephone information center on alcoholism.

Samples of home-canned food, received by the Microbiology Laboratory and examined for possible botulinus toxin, initiated investigation into two unsolved deaths in a Davis home. These persons died after a week's illness.

The symptoms in both cases were difficulty in breathing and swallowing, double vision and chest pains. The youngest of the victims was thought to have had myasthenia gravis. Investigated as possible causes of death were pneumonic plague, carbon monoxide or methyl bromide poisoning, and botulism. So far, no definite evidence has been produced to support any of the suspected causes of death.

In July the Bureau of Crippled Children Services will begin a program of care for children with cystic

fibrosis. Total expenditure for this necessary service is estimated at \$350,000 in State and local funds.

Beginning July 1, x-ray and other radiation-producing machines will be subject to regulations requiring that they be installed and used in accordance with recognized standards necessary for the protection of public health and safety.

Beginning September 1, the department will license and regulate persons who use radioactive materials. Most radioactive materials heretofore controlled by the Atomic Energy Commission will be included as well as other materials, such as radium, that have not previously been subject to control. The licensing program does not include x-ray machines.

This is considered to be an important forward step on the part of California. All radiation sources subject to state jurisdiction will be included in a single, comprehensive control program. The traditional pattern of state preeminence in matters of health and safety becomes established in the one field that, from its inception, has been federally dominated.

With special project funds for the chronically ill and aging and for maternal and child health, 12 counties are developing plans for the establishment of home nursing services and organized medical home care programs in the rural areas of California.

The Bureau of Nutrition has received a grant of \$80,533 from the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Disease for a two-year research project of obesity assessment and related factors.

Purpose of the study is to develop methods for assessment of obesity or degree of body fatness that will be suitable for use in large-scale field studies. Various body measurements will be made on 2,000 healthy men and women of the ages 25 to 44 years selected so as to include a wide variation in physique. Determinations of body density and body water will be made on a sub-sample of approximately 200 of these persons.